THE ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN Vol 9 No 2

March, 1940

FREDERICK C. LINCOLN TO ADDRESS BIRD CLUB

No foolin', our March meeting's going to be held in April. And on April Fool's Day, April 1st. But you "sure" won't be fooled if you take advantage of this opportunity: FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, SENIOR BIOLOGIST IN CHARGE OF MIGRATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BIRDS, BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. will present an illustrated lecture that none of you can afford to miss. Mr. Lincoln has graciously consented to be rerouted through St. Louis on his return to Washington from a Conference in St. Paul. And since his return is scheduled for April 1st your board of directors feels that the March meeting can very well wait a few days for a man like Mr. Lincoln. Most of you are acquainted with his new book "The Migration of American Birds", and little more need be said. The book and his wide experience in the Bureau of Biological Survey testify to the calibre of the address we're to hear. Here are all the particulars:
Bird Club meeting, Monday evening, April 1st, Jefferson Memorial, 8 P.M.
Speaker, Frederick C. Lincoln, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington.
Open to members and all friends of birds.

APRIL BIRD WALKS

Long-awaited April, queen of the bird-months, is soon to make her "reigny" entrance. How impatiently we've waited, how anxious we are to walk in the parks with her; for, in short, April Bird Walks are at hand! As is the past each Sunday morning in April will find capable leaders of the club ready and willing to contribute their time and energies to give St. Louis an inside look at nature's annual bird parade. Walks will begin promptly at 7 A.M. from Jefferson Memorial. Latecomers are simply scoffed at and will have to set out frantically in search of one of the groups of bird walkers scattered about the park. In other words, a word to the wise should be sufficient. Bird walks are open to any and all of your friends. Spread the word about. There will be leaders a plenty, Wayne Short, The Hills, The Comforts, Anne Loftus, and others to point out birds galore to all who attend.

And here's something special, FOR MEMBERS ONLY. The executive board, feeling that special attention should be given members of the club, has decided to hold Saturday morning walks this spring in Shaw's garden--each Saturday in April. These Walks are as follows-

Saturday, April 6, 7:30 A.M.
Leader--Margaret Hill

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 A.M.
Leader--A. D. De Vilbiss

Saturday, April 20, 7:30 A.M.
Leader--Anne Luftus

Saturday, April 27, 7:30 A.M.
Leader--Margaret Hill,

Assisting on Saturday walks: Marvin Beckman

Anyone attending several of these walks will have a chance to learn to identify 60 to 75 birds. Be seein' you at the Bird Walks!

RESUME OF JANUARY MEETING

Results of the election of officers for the ensuing year are as

follows: President, Wayne Short, Announcer, Station KSD, St. Louis Address -- 1207 N. 7th, CE 0631; Vice-president, Henry M. Kennon, Curator of Birds, St. Louis Zoo; Secretary, Anne Loftus, teacher, Bates School, home address -- 5774 De Giverville, CA 2759r; Treasurer, Nelle Lee Jenkinson of the Educational Museum, home address -- Convent Garden Apartments, FR 5511.

The government moving picture on the How and Why of Bird banding shown at the January meeting gave some real dope on the bird-banding business. And, believe us, it is a business when you get it down to such a fine point that you take the bird's temperature everytime you band it.

RESUME OF FEBRUARY MEETING

The seventy-five of us who attended the February meeting certainly can testify to the ability of Dr. T. E. Musselman of Quincy, Illinois as a bird lecturer of first calibre. We sat with eyes reveted on his remarkable slides and marveled at his fascinating down-to-earth discussion of birds as an expert knows them. You who couldn't attend missed one of the finest meetings we've had in eons. From St. Louis Bird Club to Dr. Musselman - - cheers and cheers!

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

A meeting descussing club policy and problems was held recently by the new executive board. Your executive board consists this year of the four officers and two others, elected according to the constitution of the club by the officers, Miss Elizabeth Golterman and Mr. Harry Comfort. Miss L. R. Ernst will serve this year as board member emeritus. The executive board has chosen as editor of the St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin, Mr. Marvin Beckman whose home address is 3665 Roswell Avenue. He'll be happy to hear from you who have contributions.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

If people can have Book of the Month clubs there's no reason why we shouldn't have a Bird of the Month Club. From now on let's each of us do some concentrated bird searching and see who can find the most outstanding bird during the month. January's Bird of the Month was a Red-breasted Nuthatch observed by Watson and Short, January 5th at Peruque, Missouri but was followed closely by Lapland Longspurs noted on various occasions by Ernst, Watson, Short, and Dr. Zemple. On January 18th, in 5 below zero weather, Wayne Short observed some 75 in one flock on the highway leading north from St. Charles and found at least 25 others during the morning to total a hundred for the day. One Longspur that had been killed by an auto was found on the highway in perfect condition and mounted for the Central College collection (by the way one of the finest bird collections in the state).

February honors go to the Comforts of Webster Groves who has as guest the first two weeks of the month Harris's Sparrow. The Comforts have a regular little bird sanctuary of their own out Glendale way -- just a little brook with a few trees and brush-piles, but the birds they've found out there make you proverbially green with envy, So it's not surprising to find them bobbing up with Harris's Sparrow.

Oh, you want to know what makes Harris's Sparrow different from any other sparrow? Well in the first place it's so scarce in these parts that your Columnist had never seen one until he made a mad dash out to

the Glendale refuge and capitalized on another man's find. In two or three decades of birding, Miss Ernst has found only one at Creve Coeur a few years ago and in April, 1933 Marshall Magner banded one bird in the county. Harris's Sparrow is an abundant bird of the western plains and has been quite common in the Kansas City region this winter and is seen there every winter. But like rain, there's always a border-line with an area beyond where the ground just doesn't get wet even though the nest field and all those on the opposite side of it do, and although Western Missouri is practically an oasis for Harris's Sparrows, Eastern Missouri is the desert. Our revered Mr Widmann saw them just once in his life in Lincoln County in 1896; and they were reported in Audrain County in 1884 and 1885. Audubon, when he journied up the Missouri in 1843, thought he'd discovered a new species when he observed Harris's Sparrow near Leavenworth, Kansas, but Prince of Wied seems to have found it in 1832 and Nuttall and Townsend discovered it at Kansas City in 1833. Harris's Sparrow is almost the size of a Fox Sparrow with markings nearest to a House Sparrow. Be on the look-out for it. And vigorously for others. For you don't know but what you'll find the next bird of the month.

JOIN THE AUDUBON SOCIETY

The St. Louis Bird Club is a life member of the Audubon Society of Missouri. Any member of our club is therefore entitled to membership in the Audubon Society at the half-price rate of 50 per year. If you wish to remit $1.50 for annual dues in the St. Louis Bird Club and the Audubon Society of Missouri, the treasurer, Miss Nelle Lee Jenkinson, will forward your 50 to the Audubon Society treasurer. We guarantee you'll enjoy receiving the Bluebird, monthly publication of the Audubon Society, and perhaps you'll want to get in on some of the Society's meetings and field trips. The big spring meeting of the Society is scheduled for April 20th and 21st at Warrensburg. Beginning at two o'clock there will be a program of papers, pictures, etc., in the evening a banquet with our very good friend, Dr. Bennitt, as speaker, with a big field trip scheduled for Sunday the 21st. Those planning to attend should drop a card to Mrs. M. C. Nattinger at Warrensburg advising the number in your party who will want reservations for the Saturday night banquet and overnight accommodations.

HOW TO BUILD A BIRDHOUSE

The Burroughs Nature Club of Kansas City offers to furnish free to anyone interested plans that will enable you to build a substantial, attractive and usable Bluebird house. The plans are simple, and almost anyone who can use tools at all can construct one without difficulty. Address Burroughs Nature Club, 14 E. 55th St. Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri.

OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST

A bird that has the inner rail on becoming the bird of the month for March was discovered recently on the "campus" of Ben Blewett High School - a Saw-whet Owl. Any time one find a Saw-whet in these parts it's definitely a windfall. If you don't believe it, ask Miss Laird who found said bewildered specimen of "Owlmanity" perched on top of her car parked at Blewett. What in the is this world coming to?

Bill Holzmark and Wayne Short report 4 Snow Geese and a flock of 57 Canadas, March 5th at Peruque. Miss Ernst reports a Pectoral Sandpiper

March 2nd and the first Lesser Yellowlegs on March 16th March 17th brought the first American Golden Plover, observed by Short-Heckler in St. Charles County. Records of Wayne Short for the past three years show the following first dates for the Golden Plover: 1938, March 17, 1939, March 20; 1940, March 17. Pretty good timing from Argentina Pintails and Mallards passed through in tremendous numbers the last week in February. Canvasbacks have shown a marked increase. There were 180 Ruddy Ducks at Horseshoe Lake, March 16th Wayne Short reports a pair of Short-eared Owls January 22nd in St Charles County and 100 European Tree Sparrows in one flock at Horseshoe Lake March 16th On March 17th at Peruque, St. Charles Co., Bill Holzmark saw a flock of 125 Blue Geese and a half dozen Snow Geese.

As a follow-up to January's bird banding meeting here are some interesting bird-banding notes from Current Conservation releases:

One of the more unusual records of return engagements played by banded birds is that of a purple finch, which was banded at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on July 16, 1932. Wearing the Biological Survey identification mark numbered C121-824. The bird has returned to the same station once each year since that date, almost always within the same 2 weeks period between May 10th, and May 23rd. That any wild bird living more than 10 is an old one is indicated by bird-banding records.

Recently the Survey received information that a 14 year old herring gull had been found dead near Manistique, Mich., On September 27. The bird had been banded as a juvenile in July 1925 at St James, Mich.

Twenty-one years is the greatest longevity record thus far recorded for any bird in the banding files. An osprey banded at Gardiner's Island, N. Y., in June 1914 was found dead at the same place in June 1935 One of the oldest birds recorded in the past few years was a 17-year-old Louisiana heron, which was banded at Avery Island, La., in August 1920 and retrapped at the same place in January 1937. No information about this bird has been received since that time, so whether the aged heron still wings its way over the Louisiana Bayous is not known.

Some 14-year-old birds noted since 1937 include a purple grackle banded at Paoli, Pa., in 1924 and found dead at Upper Darby, Pa., in 1938; a mallard tagged near Peruque, Mo., in 1923 and shot in Saskatchewan in 1937; a red-tailed hawk banded in Saskatchewan in 1924 and kill- at Ethel, La., in 1938 and a crow banded in Manitoba in 1924 and killed at Sherman, S. Dak., in 1938

Stories of a submarine lurking in nearby waters recently frightened citizens of El Triunfo, San Salvador, in Central America. And it was all caused by a common tern banded in Massachusetts by the Biological Survey.

The submarine scare was started by a local paper that featured an article with the headline: "Are There Nazi Sub-marines in Salvadorean Waters?" The article, in part, stated: "A bird carrying a band with strange markings and ciphers has been found in this country! It is believed it may be a messenger pigeon from some Nazi submarine in Salvadorean waters."

Another newspaper, however, corrected these "scare lines" and pointed out that the tern had been banded by the Biological Survey to study the flight of birds during migration.

SPEAKING OF WAR

Pelicans in the London Zoo are being conditioned to a meat diet because of the shortage of fish due to war conditions, the Bureau of Fisheries reports

APRIL 18, RED LETTER DAY

Right this moment get out your red pencil and put a big circle around April 18th on your calendar. For on that evening Dr. A. A. Allen, Cornell University, is to address the St. Louis Bird Club and the St. Louis district of the Missouri State Teacher's Association at Soldan High School, 8 P.M. More details in your April Bulletin.

DON'T FORGET!!! FREDERICK C. LINCOLN

LECTURE, APRIL FIRST, 8 P.M.

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL ALSO BIRD

WALKS EVERY SATURDAY AND

SUNDAY IN APRIL